

HOUSE BILL 1871

By Hulsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 7; Title 8; Title 14; Title 50; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the immune protection gained from a prior COVID-19 infection is at least as protective against COVID-19 as a COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, there is, therefore, no rational basis to treat individuals who have had a previous COVID-19 infection differently than individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 14-1-101, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() "Natural immunity" means immune system resistance to COVID-19 that is acquired naturally as the result of an individual's prior infection with COVID-19;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 14, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A governmental entity, local education agency, or school shall not adopt or enforce a statute, ordinance, rule, policy, or practice arising from COVID-19 that:

(1) Fails to recognize natural immunity as providing a level of immune protection that is at least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine; or

(2) Treats individuals with natural immunity differently than individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

(b) A private business shall not adopt or enforce a rule, policy, procedure, or practice arising from COVID-19 that:

(1) Fails to recognize natural immunity as providing a level of immune protection that is at least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine; or

(2) Treats individuals with natural immunity differently than individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.